

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22. (canceled).

Claim 23. (new): A unit for applying printed slips to packets in packaging machines, comprising: first means by which to feed slips procured as single items ordered in a stack, or second means by which to feed slips obtainable as cuts made from a continuous strip, an a universal pickup and application device installed permanently in the machine such as will take up the slips with equal facility from either the first or the second feed means at a pickup station.

Claim 24. (new): A unit as in claim 23, wherein the first and second feed means are mutually interchangeable.

Claim 25. (new): A unit as in claim 24, wherein first feed means comprise a magazine containing a plurality of slips ordered in a stack aligned on a relative axis substantially perpendicular to the pickup station.

Claim 26. (new): A unit as in claim 24, wherein second feed means comprise units by means of which respectively to decoil, feed and cut a continuous strip, of which the feed unit is designed to index the continuous strip, at least when in the neighborhood of the pickup station, through predetermined steps and in a direction coinciding with a plane disposed parallel and in close proximity to a reference plane of the pickup station.

Claim 27. (new): A unit as in claim 23, wherein the pickup and application device

includes at least one pickup assembly capable of movement between the pickup station and a release position, generated according to a previously determined law of motion and described about an axis lying parallel to a reference plane of the pickup station.

Claim 28. (new): A unit as in claim 27, wherein the pickup assembly comprises a pickup mechanism caused by the law of motion governing the movement of the selfsame assembly to roll tangentially to a reference plane of the pickup station during the step of picking up the slips from the selfsame station and thereafter to advance along a predetermined path, passing from the pickup station to the release position.

Claim 29. (new): A unit as in claim 27, wherein the pickup mechanism is furnished with at least one suction cup connectable to a source of negative pressure and designed to attract a slip occupying the reference plane of the pickup station by rolling against one face thereof.

Claim 30. (new): A unit as in claim 29, wherein the pickup and application device comprises first and second guiding and locating means serving to ensure the correct transfer of the slips.